

FLAGSHIPS Final event

Lionel BOILLOT

22nd September 2026



Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking

EU Institutional Public-Private Partnership (IPPP)

Advisory:
Stakeholder Group
incl all H2 supply chain
stakeholders, associations

Advisory:
States Representative
Group incl 36 countries
represent. (all EU and Associated
Countries)



**Industry
Association**
more than 600
members



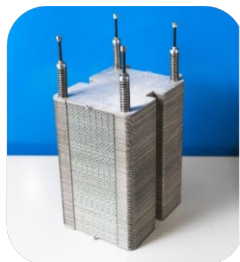
**Research
community**
more than 150
members

1 billion EURO from Horizon Europe* to **implement R&I activities** and
facilitate the transition to a greener EU society through the development of hydrogen technologies

*** additional 200 million EURO for Hydrogen valleys (under RePowerEU)**

A 18 years journey of the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen JU

From research to delivering hydrogen solutions in the market: from individual applications to H2 Valleys



Manufacturing



Green H2
production



Buses



ships



Aviation



Research

PoC



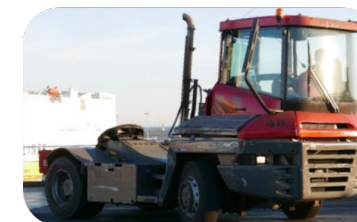
Domestic heat
and power



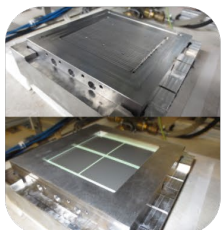
Heat and power
for industry



Heavy duty trucks



Logistics machinery



Materials



Gensets



Light duty
vehicles



Trains

Clean Hydrogen JU Programme

2008-2026 Cumulative funding

27 Projects
€ 320 million

H₂ Valleys

17%

H₂ End Use: Clean Heat and Power

93 Projects
€ 325 million

16%

H₂ End Use: Transport

86 Projects
€ 583 million

29%

H₂ Production

100 Projects
€ 383 million

19%

H₂ Storage & Distribution

45 Projects
€ 181 million

9%

Cross-cutting

61 Projects
€ 97 million

5%

Supply Chain

18 Projects
€ 58 million

3%

Strategic Research Challenge

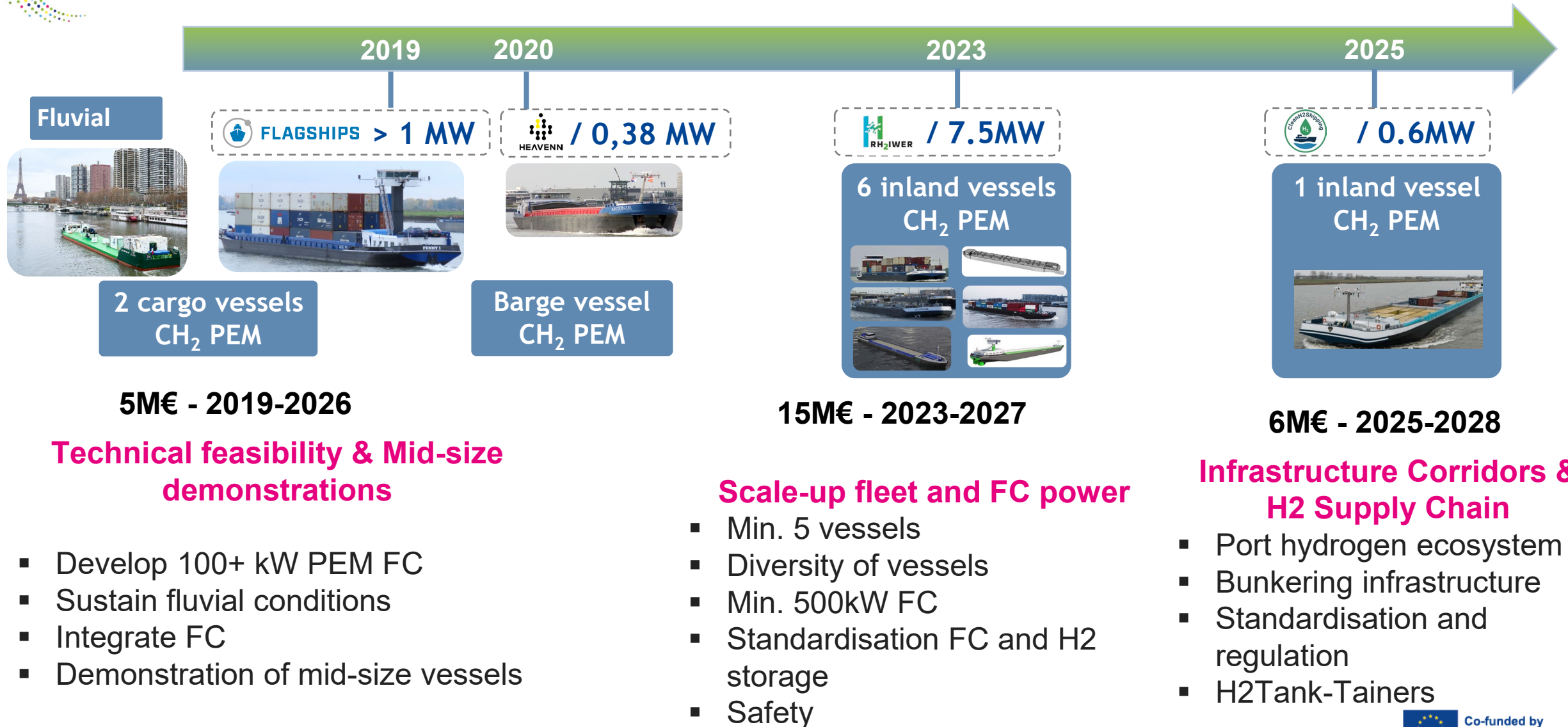
3 Projects
€ 29.6 million

1%

433 projects supported for € 2.00 bn



Fluvial transport – JU steps and vision



Context

2019 – Existing vessels

Nemo-H2
(60kW PEM)



**Alster
Wasser**
(50kW PEM)



Elektra
(3x100kW
PEM)



Market

- IWT already clean vs. trucks
- Small size of the market
- An ageing fleet and long lifetime of vessels

Regulations and standardisation

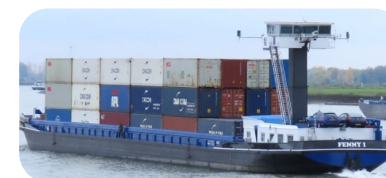
Absence of rules for:

- Hydrogen as a fuel
- Fuel cells as powertrain
- Hydrogen storage

Technology

- Vessel specific
- Limited pool of suppliers for FC, hydrogen storage and supply
- Hardly compatible with commercial operations

2019 – 2026 FLAGSHIPS



H2 barge 2
(1200kW PEM)



ZULU 6
(400kW PEM)

Decision and construction

-  CAPEX increase and FID not achieved
-  Changes in partners commercial strategy
-  New demonstration sites and vessel concepts
-  H₂ infrastructure and FC technology readiness
-  COVID-19 and supply chain disruptions
-  Complex regulatory/certification environment

Operations

-  OPEX
 - Hydrogen price
 - Bunkering (hydrogen supply)
-  Market
 - Customer demand remains sensitive to the cost premium

Many hurdles.

One outcome: the vessels sailed



Partners established their **expertise**



More vessel designs, more rivers



Fuel cells system – several manufacturers have maritime approved systems



H2 tanks – **swappable containers** became the norm



Continuity under follower projects:



6 inland vessels
CH₂ PEM



1 inland vessel
CH₂ PEM



And beyond FLAGSHIPS



Regulation and standards

- Revision of ES-TRIN (“inland navigation code”) on:
 - Hydrogen as fuels and fuel cells -2024
 - Hydrogen storage – 2025
- Interoperable infrastructure for refuelling and bunkering via AFIR - end 2026



Joining Forces

- Stakeholders' coalition (RH2INE + national/regional initiatives)
- <10 of H2 fuel cells powered vessels built



Reducing Hydrogen Costs

- Demand aggregation instrument → greater purchasing power
- Shared pool of swappable hydrogen storage

Thank you



FLAGSHIPS webinar

Scaling clean maritime solutions through collaboration

Ada Martine Jakobsen

CEO, Maritime CleanTech

Demonstrating zero emissions

FLAGSHIPS has raised the readiness level of clean shipping in Europe by deploying two hydrogen fuel cell vessels on inland waterways.

Proven solutions





Scaling hydrogen

Two Samskip SeaShuttle container vessels to be powered by PEM fuel cells and LH2.

Supporting maritime alternative fuel projects

SeaThrive aims to transform renewable and low-carbon fuel projects into commercially viable, investable, and implementation-ready maritime ventures.



Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Center
for Zero Carbon Shipping



Funded by
the European Union

www.seathrive.eu

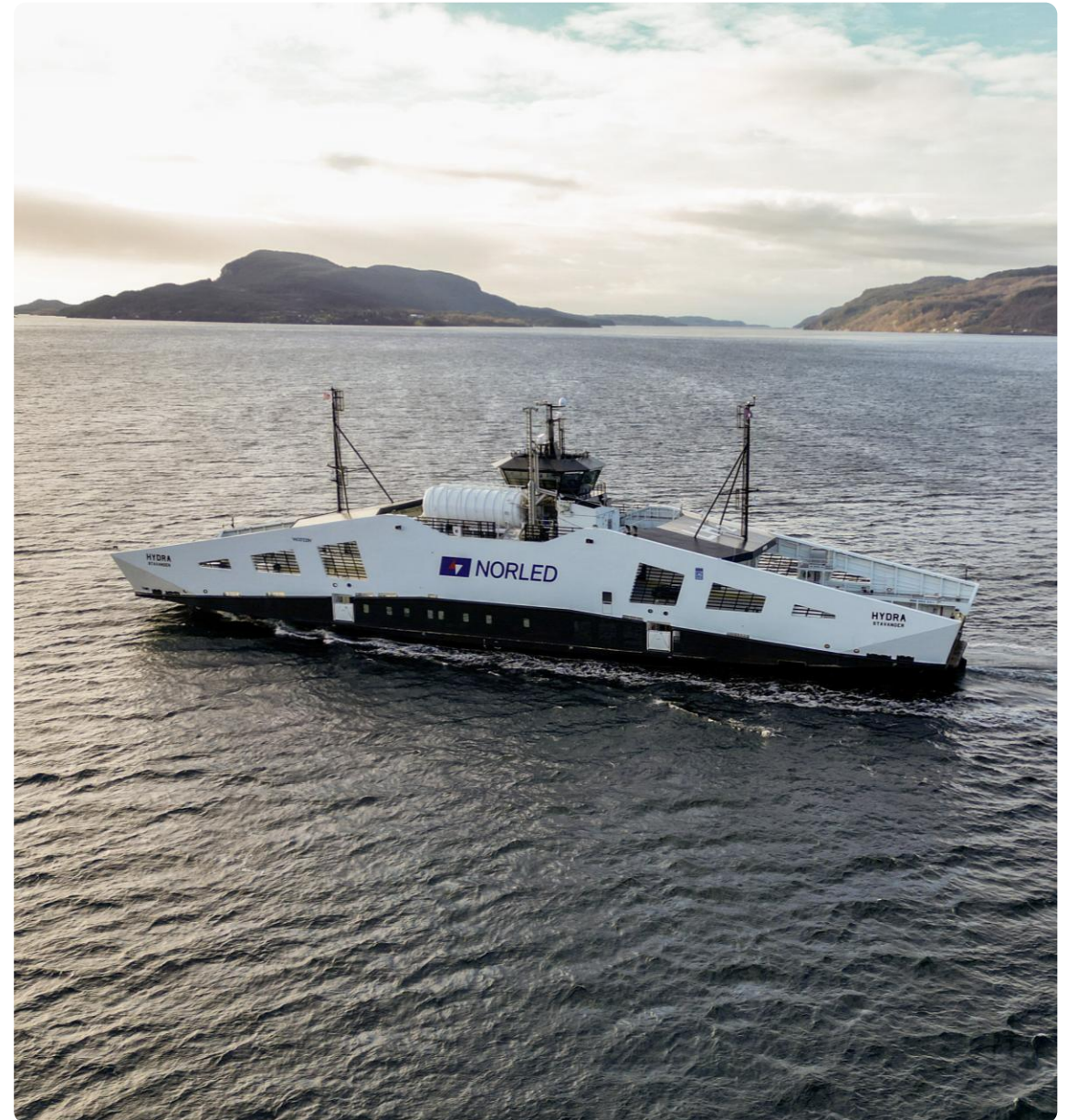


Photo: Norled, MF Hydra



**Maritime
CleanTech**

FLAGSHIPS

Clean waterborne transport in Europe

Jyrki Mikkola

VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd.

Final Event

22nd of September 2026

VTT currently coordinates 50 M€ project portfolio on hydrogen ships



Funded by
the European Union

VTT



MARANDA

H₂+PEMFC based hybrid powertrain system is developed and validated for marine applications



SHIP-AH₂OY

Demonstrate safe and scalable solution for zero-emission shipping using LOHC and FC technology.

Development of the first megawatt size PEMFC for maritime use, with a lifetime of 80,000 hours



MiNaMi
MILLION NAUTICAL MILE
FUEL CELL SYSTEM

2017

2026



FLAGSHIPS

Development and deployment of two commercially operated hydrogen fuel cell vessels.

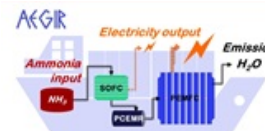


RH₂IWER

Deployment of six commercially operated hydrogen fuel cell vessels.
Standardization of H₂&FC containers



Plus many more...





FLAGSHIPS

The **FLAGSHIPS** project demonstrates zero-emission waterborne transport with two commercially operated hydrogen fuel cell vessels.



H2 BARGE 2
ROTTERDAM,
THE NETHERLANDS

ZULU 06
PARIS,
FRANCE

Inland waterway transport is one of the most efficient transport modes → why not make it zero emission?



H2 Barge II

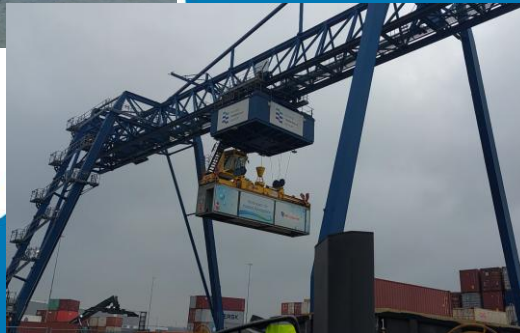
110m x 12m

200 TEU capacity

CGH2 300 bars/450 kg

1.2 MW of FC power

21 months of operation



Objectives

- 1) Demonstrate for at least 18 months the operation of a hydrogen-fuelled 1.2 MW power class cargo vessel in the Rotterdam-Duisburg route. 
- 2) Demonstrate for at least 18 months the operation of a hydrogen-fuelled 400 kW power class self-propelled barge in the Paris area, France. 
- 3) Develop the necessary safety measures of said vessels to enable their class approval 
- 4) Develop marine capable PEM fuel cell systems, which meet both technical (lifetime, availability) and business (cost) requirements. 
- 5) Develop and demonstrate bunkering technologies based on swapping gaseous hydrogen fuel containers 
- 6) Foster new European supply chains around zero-emission solutions for the marine and waterborne transport sector 

Key takeaways

TECHNICALLY READY

Marine fuel cells, hybrid electrical integration, hydrogen storage, safety systems and approval can be realized already today

APPROVAL

Both demonstration vessels received approval to sail. Approval process still time consuming but keeps developing

OPERATION

H₂ Barge 2 generated extended real-world operating evidence.

CAVEAT

Commercial operation still a bottleneck: demand, hydrogen logistics, finance and operating conditions must also align

The technology is ready to go! The ecosystem must now scale with it.

Acknowledgments

The FLAGSHIPS project has received funding from Clean Hydrogen Partnership (previously Fuel Cells and Hydrogen 2 Joint Undertaking) under grant agreement No 826215. This Joint Undertaking receives support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program and from Hydrogen Europe.





Contact points

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 - Jyrki Mikkola, jyrki.mikkola@vtt.fi, tel. +358 40 170 1744



FLAGSHIPS

www.flagships.eu



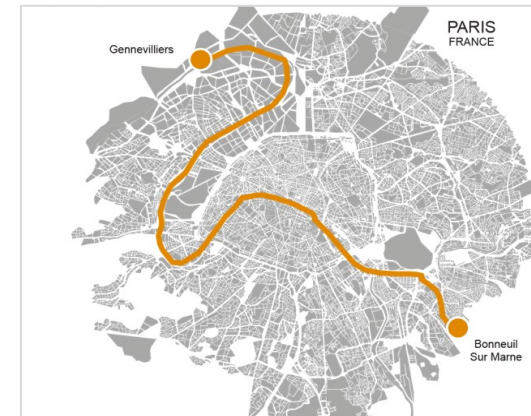
ZULU 06

Making Zulu 06 ready for hydrogen
operations

ZULU 06

- Urban distribution boat
 - Palletized goods / Big bags
- Onboard crane
- Up to 400 tons of cargo
- 1 week autonomy
- 2 x Ballard Fcwave
 - 4,5 barg service pressure.
- 20' foot container
 - Type IV composite bottles
- 300 kg at 300 barg @ 15°C
 - Refilled at shore station

Replace up to
**50 delivery
trucks**



ZULU 06

HYDROGEN'S STORAGE

- **ADR compliance**
- 20' foot container
- Type IV composite bottles
- Acoustic sensors
- 3 lines - 13 / 13 / 14 bottles
 - Segregated with normally closed pneumatic valves
- 300 barg
- IR / UV cameras
- Excess Flow valves



ZULU 06

FUEL-CELL & PIPING

- 2 x Ballard Fcwave
- Proton Exchange membrane Fuel-cells technology
- H₂ + O₂ as fuels
- Products :
 - Water
 - Electricity
 - Heat
- Swagelok Valves
- Set of valves for safety and operations
- 4,5 barg service pressure.



ZULU 06

NUMEROUS CHALLENGES

- From Romania during COVID
- To the navigation certificates
-> 4 years

Major milestones :

Safety studies

- HAZID / HAZOP / FMECA analysis

Design loops

- H2 piping and valve system
- Container solution
- Skids for electrical equipment

Sizing of equipment

- Batteries packs
- Safety valves
- ...

Selection & certification of suppliers



ZULU 06 READY TO SAIL

Major milestones :

Steel work & retrofit

- Openings in deck
- Railings for the container guidance
- Fuel cell room, ...

EU & French authorities' approval

- EU committees in Strasbourg
- French “recommendation” meetings

Teaching courses for crew

- Safety courses
- Operation courses

Harbour test & sea trials

- H2 testing
- Fuel cell testing



ZULU 06

STRONG CONSORTIUM

Collaboration is key to accelerate the green shift



Learn more about the group : [Sogestran Group](#)
Learn more about the project : [Zulu 06](#)



BALLARD™



**Sustainable
Power
Now**

Hydrogen fuel cells for zero-emission shipping

FLAGSHIPS Final Event

Andrew Win
Market Development Manager



Ballard Power Systems – Enabling Zero-Emission Marine Transport

- Ballard Power Systems – fuel cell technology for heavy-duty and commercial applications.
- Decades of experience developing PEM fuel cell technology for demanding applications.
- Experience across buses, trucks, rail and marine.
- FCwave: modular marine fuel cell technology designed for scalable power requirements.
- Supporting the transition toward zero-emission marine transport through technology, collaboration and commercial deployment.



| SustainablePowerNow



Co-funded by
the European Union

Building Experience for Commercial Marine Applications

- Work with partners to develop and integrate fuel cell solutions for commercial marine applications.
- Ballard supplied FCwave fuel cell modules for the two FLAGSHIPS demonstration vessels.
- Collaboration with shipowners, vessel designers and project partners.
- Technical support for fuel cell system design and vessel integration.
- Commissioning of the fuel cell modules.
- Service and maintenance support through the operation phases.



| SustainablePowerNow



FCwave – A Milestone in Marine Fuel Cell Technology



- FCwave: modular 200 kW marine fuel cell engine.
- Scalable architecture for different vessel power requirements.
- First DNV Type Approval for a marine fuel cell module, achieved in 2022.
- On top of **safety validation**, the DNV Type Approval also includes functionality for heavy duty conditions, such as,, **Structural Integrity, Emissions, Performance, Efficiency, Noise, Vibration, and Environment**
- Flagships formed the foundation for the development of commercial marine fuel cell applications.



Looking Ahead – From Demonstration to Commercial Marine Deployment

Samskip – Short-Sea Cargo Opportunity

Ballard supplying FCwave fuel cell technology for two Samskip feeder vessels.

Vessels planned to operate between Norway and the Netherlands.

Collaboration with vessel and system integration partners to support the development of fuel cell propulsion solutions.



Future Marine Market Focus

Inland and cargo vessels.

Passenger ships.

Short-sea cargo vessels.

Continued engagement with shipowners, vessel designers, shipyards, integrators and hydrogen infrastructure partners.

Following developing marine fuel cell opportunities in Norway.



| SustainablePowerNow





SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 – FLAGSHIPS FINAL EVENT

ABB Marine Fuel Cell (MFC) Solutions

Timo Keränen, R&D Product Manager – Fuel Cell Solutions

Contents

- 01.** ABB marine fuel cell (MFC) solutions
- 02.** Reference projects



01

ABB MFC
solutions

ABB Marine Fuel Cell (MFC) solutions

Application in marine power systems

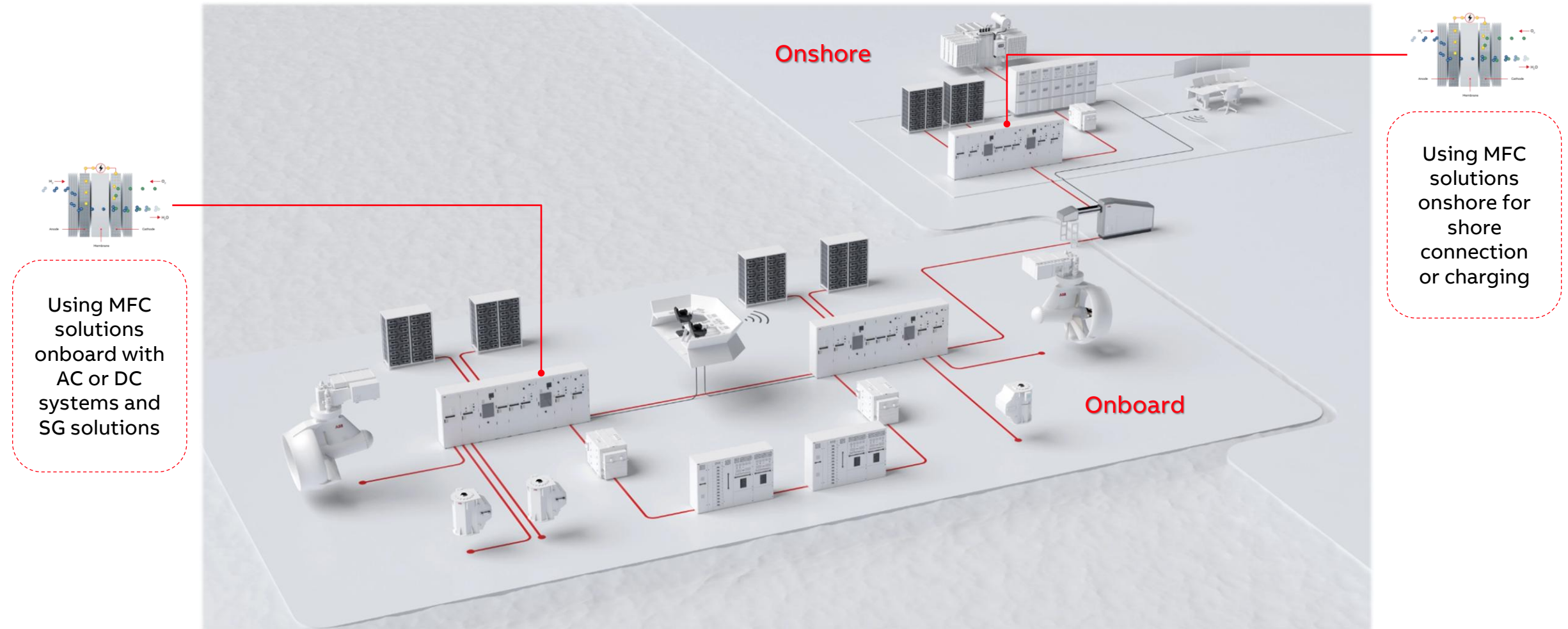
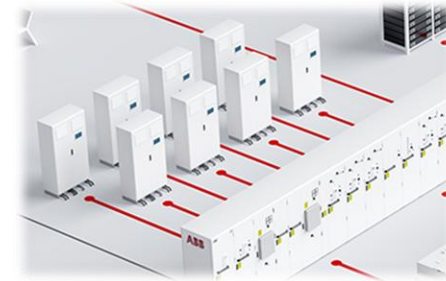


ABB Marine Fuel Cell (MFC) offerings

Overview

MFC Integration

Scalable and flexible systems that can be connected to variety of selected certified (PEM or solid oxide) marine fuel cell modules of different power ratings with fuel cell control and power management for both shore and onboard marine systems



MFC eHouse

Integrated certified marine PEM fuel cell modules in a container with complete piping, GVU, and integrated safety systems for both shore and onboard marine systems



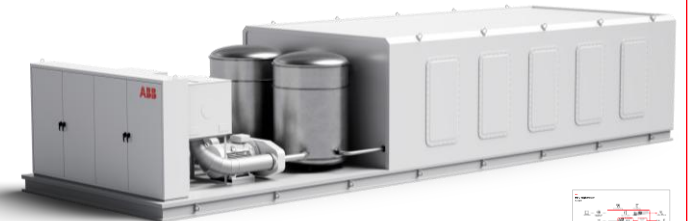
MFC Skid

Integrated certified marine PEM fuel cell modules on a skid with complete piping, and GVU



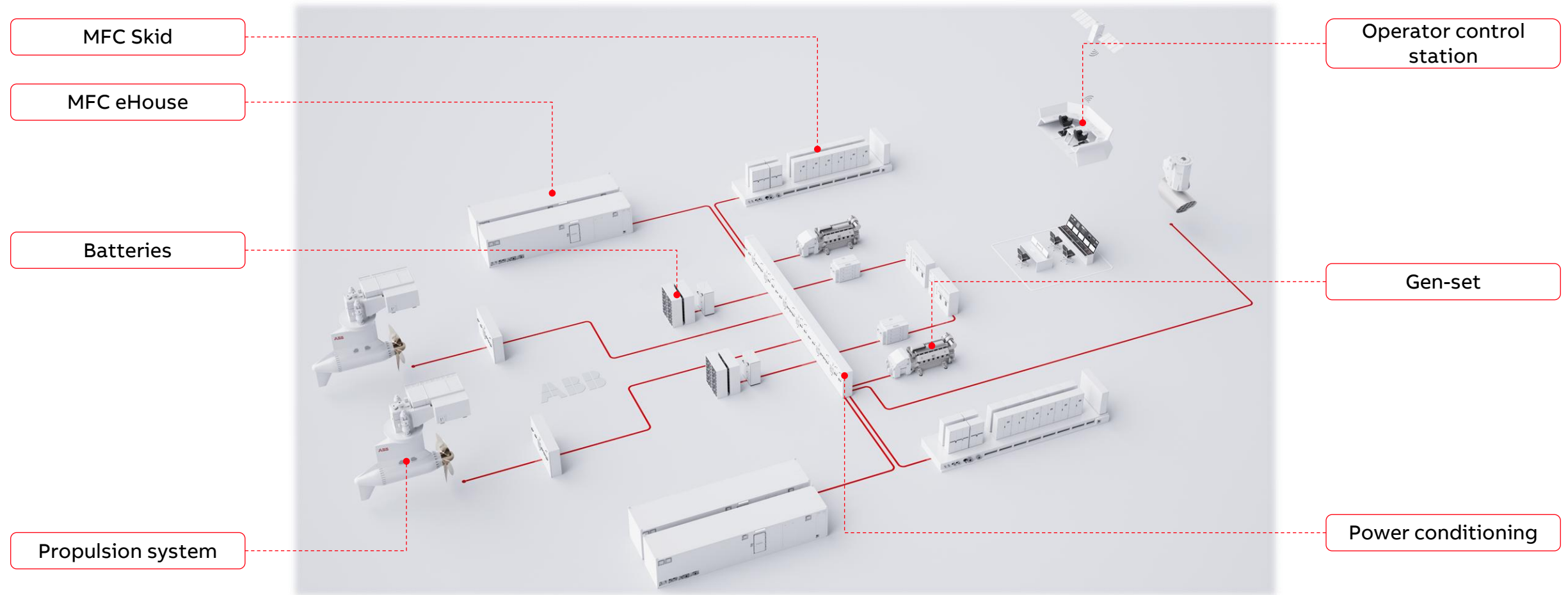
MFC High Power

Integrated next generation PEM fuel cell building blocks in single high power unit



Typical marine power system with MFC

Illustrative example

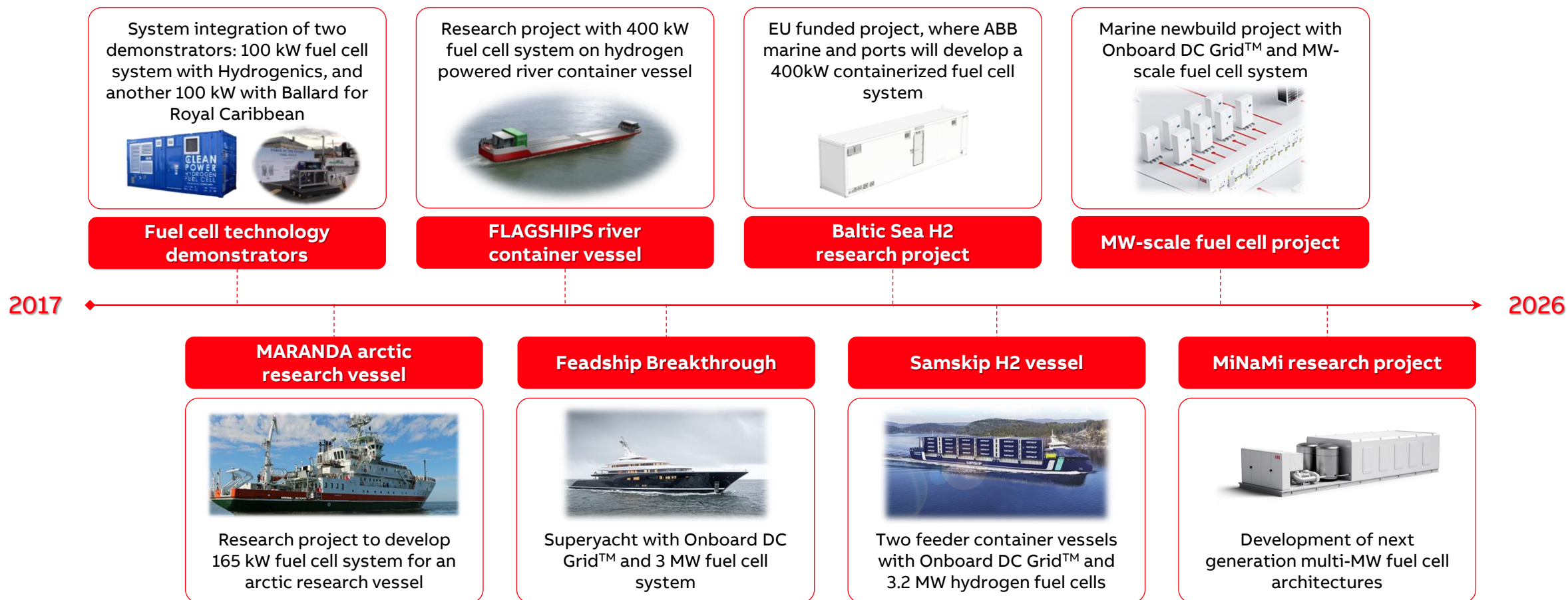


02

**Reference
projects**

Reference projects

Marine fuel cell installations integrated by ABB



ABIB

INSIGHTS FROM FLAGSHIPS

Maritime Gaseous & Liquid Hydrogen Transfer

Integrating GH2 fast-fill thermal models, LH2 fireball hazard correlations, and open safety e-tools from the FLAGSHIPS initiative



Marine Hydrogen Delivery Modes

4 OPERATIONAL TRANSFER MODES EVALUATED IN EUROPEAN MARITIME TRIALS



Truck-to-Ship (TTS)

Flexible pilot project delivery.



Shore-to-Ship (STS)

High-volume terminal piping.



Ship-to-Ship (STS)

Scalable commercial barge transfer.



Swappable Containers

Modular swap-tank swapping.

The Maritime Hydrogen Scaling Challenge

SCALING FROM AUTOMOTIVE PROTOTYPES TO HIGH-FLOW COMMERCIAL VESSEL BUNKERING



IMO 2050 Mandate

Zero-emission propulsion requirements driving green hydrogen adoption.



Massive Flow Scale

Bunkering rates 100x higher than land FCV station protocols.



Remaining regulatory gaps for H₂ transfer

ISO 24132 covers LH₂ ship–shore transfer interface but no maritime LH₂ bunkering protocol in place

Swappable containers as a by-pass to regulatory gaps



Truck-to-Ship (TTS)

Flexible pilot project delivery.



Shore-to-Ship (STS)

High-volume terminal piping.



Ship-to-Ship (STS)

Scalable commercial barge transfer.



Swappable Containers

Modular swap-tank swapping.



FLAGSHIPS

GH2 vs. LH2 Transfer Dynamics

DISTINCT PHYSICAL MECHANISMS REQUIRE DEDICATED PROTOCOL PHYSICS

Compressed GH2

350 - 700 Bar

State: High-pressure gaseous transfer

Target Vessels: Inland ferries & push-boats

Physical Stress: Adiabatic compression heating

Core Limit: Tank wall liner temp ceiling (<85°C)

FLAGSHIPS Tool: Pressure ramp thermal simulation

Cryogenic LH2

-253°C (20 K)

State: Deep cryogenic liquid state

Target Vessels: Ocean cargo & large ferries (Stavanger)

Physical Stress: Boil-off gas (BOG) & line chill-down

Core Limit: thermal shock

FLAGSHIPS Tool: LH2 spill fireball hazard distances

LH2 spill hazard distance evaluation

<https://elab.hysafer.ulster.ac.uk/>

Hazard distances defined by fireball from high-pressure hydrogen tank rupture in a fire and LH2 spill

Tank rupture in a fire

Liquid H2 spill

Navigation

[Tool list](#)
[Saved results](#)
[New calculation](#)

Navigation in the laboratory and calculation history

Guidelines, validation domain and explanations

Show description

Units

m_{H_2} (Hydrogen mass in tank) kg

D_{bf} (Best fit fireball size) m

D_c (Conservative fireball size) m

e-laboratory

Login

Hazard distances defined by fireball from high-pressure hydrogen tank rupture in a fire and LH2 spill

» Liquid H2 spill

Name	Symbol	Value	Unit
Hydrogen mass in tank	m_{H_2}	1.06	kg
Best fit fireball size	D_{bf}	8.37679	m
Conservative fireball size	D_c	10.2657	m

[Export to CSV](#)
[Change inputs](#)

[Save](#)

Tunable units of inputs and outputs

E-tool 1

The model consists of two options to allow for the calculation of hazard distances defined by:

1. The size of fireball after high-pressure gaseous hydrogen tank rupture in a fire
2. The size of fireball after liquid hydrogen spill

The output is an estimation of the fireball diameter in case of rupture, with both best fit and conservative fit. .

GH2 fast fill evaluation

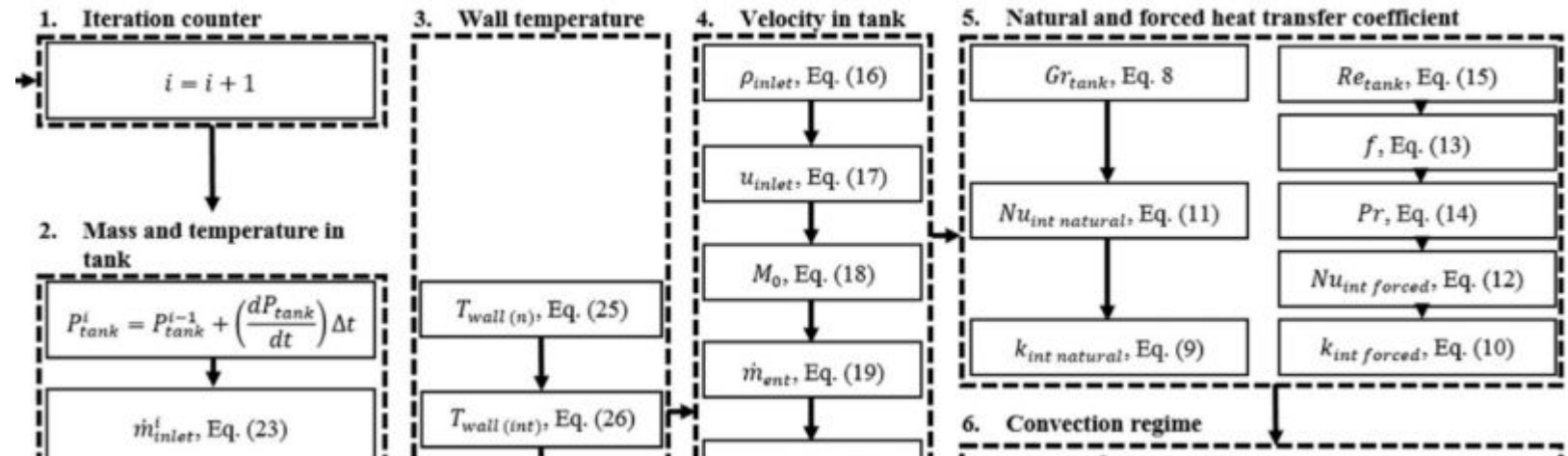
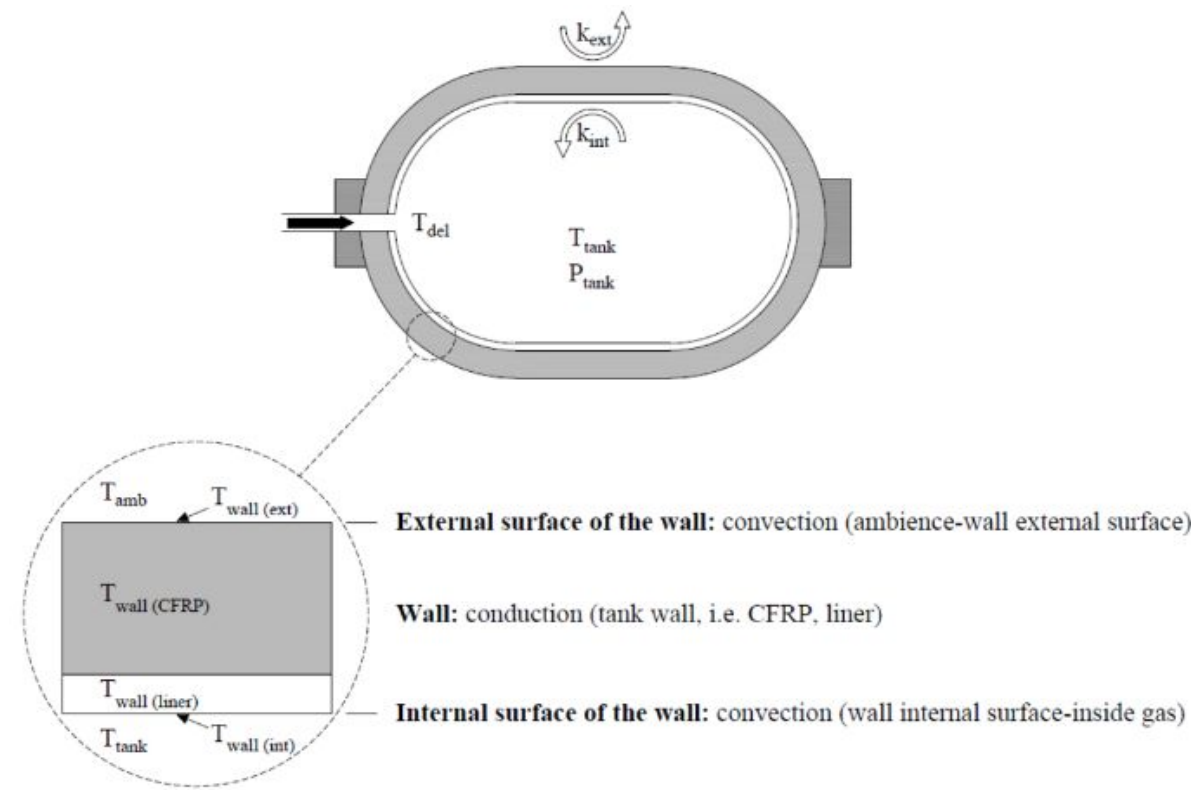
<https://elab.hysafer.ulster.ac.uk/>

This second tool aims to facilitate the development of fueling/bunkering protocols for compressed hydrogen storage systems (CHSS).

The calculations are based on the physical model of thermal behavior of hydrogen storage tank.

The model and tool account for all main underlying physical phenomena during hydrogen fueling of a composite high-pressure cylinder.

The model has been validated against fueling experiments with Type III and Type IV tanks typical for onboard storage.



LOOKING FORWARD

**Let's ensure H2 Transfer can be an
industrialised and cost effective process!**





The impact of FLAGSHIPS

Aleksandra Saarikoski, VTT



The impact of FLAGSHIPS

- Implementation of fuel cell vessels
 - FLAGSHIPS has succeeded in demonstrating the implementation of two fuel cell vessels: H2 Barge 2 by FPS and Zulu 06 by CFT.
- Completed approval processes for both demo vessels
 - Hydrogen is not currently a commonly utilised fuel in maritime. The case-by-case approval process was completed successfully for both vessels.
- CO2 emission reductions
 - Approximately 2400 tCO2 emission reductions were reached during the project.
 - Comparisons made to a conventional diesel-operated vessel.

Successful outreach and dissemination

FLAGSHIPS wins Best Outreach Award at EU Hydrogen Week 2024



The launch event of Zulu 06



hydrogen

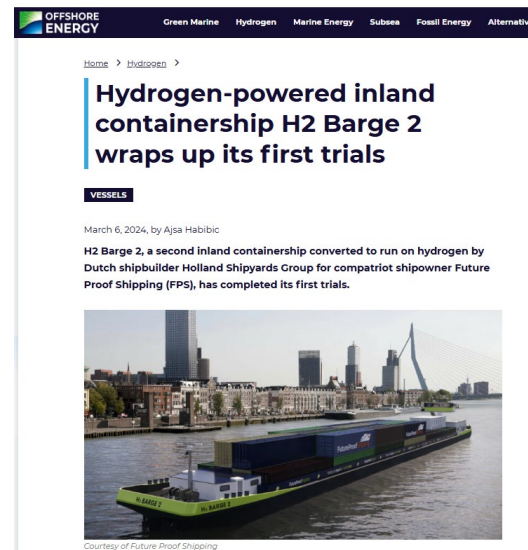
Hydrogen-powered Zulu 06 launches in Paris

By **MATT ROSS** — December 6, 2024 2 Mins Read



France's first hydrogen-powered river vessel, the Zulu 06, launched on the Seine in Paris at the start of December.

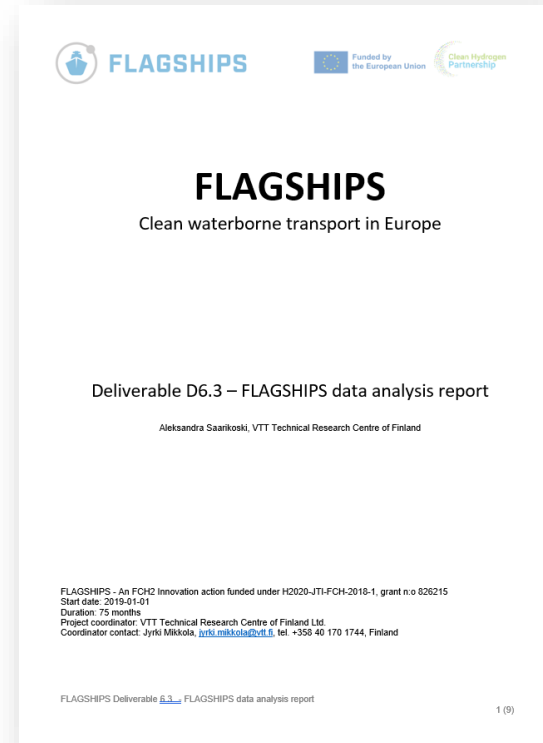
The launch event of H2 Barge 2





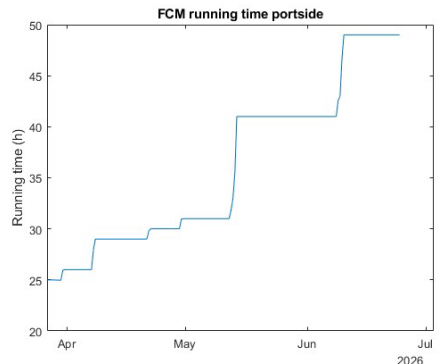
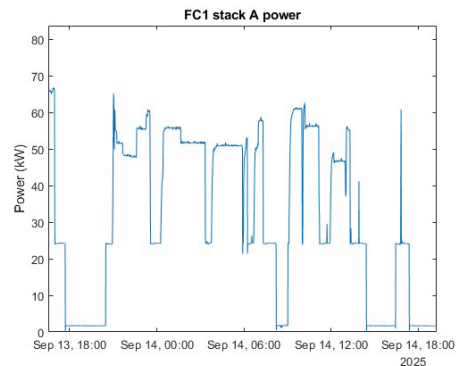
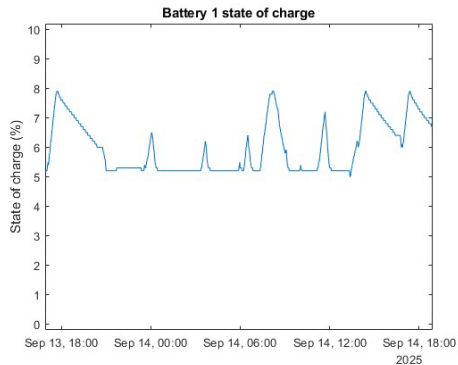
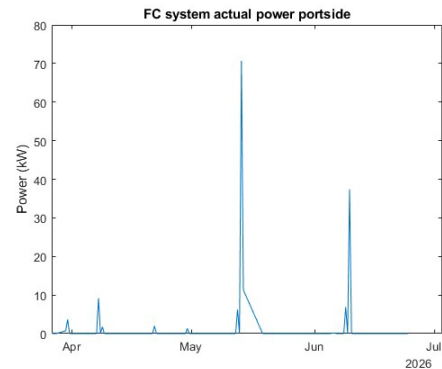
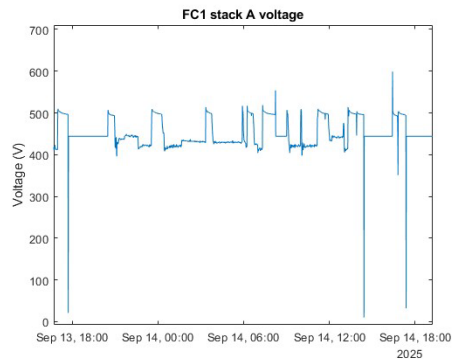
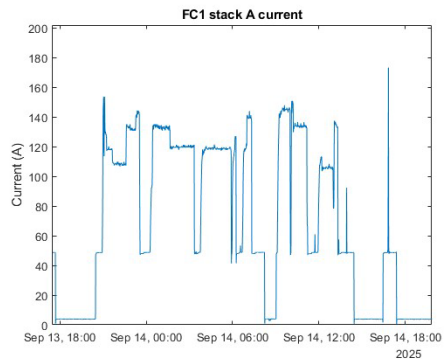
FLAGSHIPS Data analysis

- Data from the demonstration vessels H2 Barge 2 and Zulu 06
- Both demonstration vessels are using the maritime type-approved FCwave system by Ballard.
- More than 21 months of vessel operation in total and at least 5000 hours of operation.
- An estimated total of 2400 tCO₂ emissions reduced during the project.
- The results are presented in the deliverable 6.3 "FLAGSHIPS Data analysis report" (Public)





FLAGSHIPS Data analysis





Lessons learnt

- Increasing hydrogen availability and supply
 - Hydrogen availability and supply is one major barrier for fuel cell vessel implementation. Hydrogen supply is limited and expensive when produced in small volume.
- Addressing financial bottlenecks and tackling business case challenges
 - The gap between fossil fuels and alternative fuels, such as hydrogen, must be closed for a successful business case – especially OPEX cost.
 - The inland waterway sector is decentralized with several small and medium-sized enterprises with limited financing possibilities. Retrofitting or construction of new builds can prove to be a challenge.
- Streamline the approval processes
 - Technical requirements (ES-TRIN) for alternative fuel or fuel cell vessels missing or incomplete – approval is based on a lengthy case-by-case safety assessment.
 - Increase the competence of fuel cell vessels with authorities to streamline the approval process.



Recommendations

- Increase hydrogen availability and supply
 - Coordinated implementation of REDIII and support for demand pooling.
- Improve bunkering infrastructure and refuelling standards
 - Hydrogen bunkering and refuelling infrastructure to be made available at ports. Inconsistent design, the compatibility of equipment, and varying safety regulations create barriers for cross-border hydrogen logistics and limit scalability.
- Strengthen the regulation and decarbonization targets
- Further support ship owners and operators
 - Ship owners and operators remain major risk takers when investing in zero-emission or fuel cell vessels. Importantly, the gap between fossil fuels and hydrogen should be closed.
- Streamline approval processes
 - Technical requirements for vessels to include fuel cells and hydrogen to avoid the case-by-case derogation process. Authorities to increase competence and experience with zero-emission vessels to streamline the approval process.



Acknowledgements

The FLAGSHIPS project has received funding from the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen 2 Joint Undertaking under grant agreement No 826215. This Joint Undertaking receives support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program and from Hydrogen Europe and from Hydrogen Europe Research.



**Co-funded by
the European Union**